

23 December 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Resume of OCB Luncheon Meeting, 23 December 1958

PRESENT: Mr. Allen, Mr. Dulles, Mr. Gray, Mr. Harr, Mr. Herter,  
Mr. Irwin, Mr. Scribner, Mr. Smith, Mr. Melbourne

1. Indonesia

Mr. Harr asked the Board's opinion of the situation in Indonesia, with particular reference to the position of Nasution vis-a-vis civilian authorities.

During the discussion which followed, Mr. Dulles made the point that Nasution was by no means out of power as a result of his recent conflict with the civil authorities but that he had simply been told to confine his activities to military matters. He said that Nasution had clearly been out of line in his demand to have a hand in approving appointments to major civil positions and that it was quite natural that the Indonesian Cabinet had refused to go along with this.

2. Berlin

Mr. Herter briefed the Board on the present status of U.S. and Allied activities with regard to the Berlin situation, and reported that the State Department had prepared a White Paper on the history of, and legal justification for, our continued presence in Berlin. In answer to Mr. Harr's question, Mr. Herter said that there did not seem to be very much that an OCB committee could do at this time, but that no doubt at an appropriate time in the future, when the policy lines are clearly established, such a committee might be able to do useful work.

Mention was made of a recent public opinion poll in West Germany which indicated that a number of Germans were inclined to favor some sort of compromise on the Berlin issue.

NSC review(s) completed.

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3. U.S. Efforts in the Field of Outer Space


The Group then turned to a discussion of the Atlas satellite and the question of what the U.S. might do to maintain the psychological initiative in this connection.

The consensus was that we should avoid undue exploitation of this event but that we should rather allow the story to play itself without too much assistance. It was felt that the broadcasts of the President's voice from the satellite had served their purpose and this aspect should not be overdone.

4. Special ICA Briefings

Mr. Smith suggested that the Board be given a brief oral description of pertinent ICA operations, by a ranking ICA official, whenever an OCB document comes before the Board which contains major and new economic issues.

The Board agreed in principle with the suggestion, with the understanding that it would be followed in special cases but would not necessarily be made a routine part of the consideration of every OCB paper.



ALLEN W. DULLES  
Director

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